

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

PAUL STEVE HICKS,

Petitioner,

V.

ROBERT L. FARLEY,

Respondent.

CASE NO. 4:11 CV 2352

JUDGE JOHN R. ADAMS

MEMORANDUM OF OPINION  
AND ORDER

On November 1, 2011, Petitioner *pro se* Paul Steve Hicks filed the above-captioned habeas corpus action under 28 U.S.C. § 2241. Petitioner challenges his conviction and the sentence imposed on him in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas on the grounds that the trial court lacked jurisdiction. For the reasons stated below, the Petition is denied and this action is DISMISSED.

Habeas corpus petitions brought pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241 address the execution of a sentence, while motions filed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255 test the validity of a judgment and sentence. *Capaldi v. Pontesso*, 135 F.3d 1122, 1123 (6th Cir. 1998)(citing *United States v. Jalili*, 925 F.2d 889, 893 (6th Cir. 1991)). By enacting section 2255, Congress essentially superseded the traditional habeas corpus remedy for federal prisoners. Larry W. Yackle, *Postconviction Remedies*, § 31 (1981). Section 2255 provides in pertinent part:

[a]n application for a writ of habeas corpus in behalf of a prisoner who is authorized to apply for relief by motion pursuant to this section, shall not be entertained if it appears that the applicant has failed to apply for relief, by motion, to the court which sentenced him, or that such court has denied him relief, unless it also appears that the remedy by motion is inadequate or ineffective to test the legality of his detention.

28 U.S.C. § 2255. The terms “inadequate” or “ineffective” do not mean that habeas corpus relief

is available whenever a federal prisoner faces a substantive or procedural barrier to § 2255 relief such as the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, *Triestman v. United States*, 124 F.3d 361, 376 (2d Cir. 1997), or denial of a previously filed section 2255 motion. *McGhee v. Hanberry*, 604 F.2d 9, 10 (5th Cir. 1979). Rather, habeas corpus remains available when the failure to allow some form of collateral review would raise serious questions as to section 2255's constitutionality. *Triestman*, 124 F.3d at 377. The petitioner bears the burden of proving that the section 2255 remedy is inadequate or ineffective. James S. Liebman, Randy Hertz, Federal Habeas Corpus Practice and Procedure § 41.2b at 1188 (2d ed. 1994) (citing *Thompson v. Smith*, 719 F.2d 938, 940 (8th Cir. 1983) and *McGhee v. Hanberry*, 604 F.2d 9, 10 (5th Cir. 1979)).

As Petitioner clearly challenges his conviction and the imposition of his sentence rather than its execution, and as there is no reasonable suggestion that the § 2255 remedy is “inadequate” or “ineffective,” habeas corpus relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 is unavailable.<sup>1</sup>

Accordingly, the request to proceed *in forma pauperis* is granted, the Petition is denied, and this action is dismissed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2243. The Court certifies, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3), that an appeal from this decision could not be taken in good faith.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Date: November 18, 2011

/s/ John R. Adams  
JOHN R. ADAMS  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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<sup>1</sup> Petitioner has a § 2255 Motion pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas. Petition, p.2.